

latter occupying the greater part of the volume, which closes with about thirty pages of bibliography and an index.

Although so many works, general and local, have been published in recent years on the vertebrate animals of the British Islands, there is still room for many more, if of the trustworthy class of this excellent summary of 'The Vertebrate Fauna of Cheshire.' — J. A. A.

The Beebe's 'Our Search for a Wilderness.'¹ — We have rarely had the opportunity to read a book of travel so charmingly written or so full of interest as Mr. and Mrs. Beebe's 'Our Search for a Wilderness. It is "the tale of two searches for a wilderness," the first, undertaken in the early part of 1908, was to the country about the Venezuelan Pitch Lake, La Brea; the other, made in the early part of 1909, was to British Guiana, where three excursions were made from Georgetown into the "wilderness." In neither "search" were their travels into the interior very extended, but they succeeded in each instance in reaching a nearly virgin wilderness, where animal and plant life was found in tropical luxuriance, unchanged to any material extent by the hand of man. Their trips into the interior were by water routes, by a small sloop or with a canoe and Indians.

The first hundred and ten pages deal with the Venezuela trip, made from Port of Spain, Trinidad, up the Caño San Juan to the Pitch Lake, sailing and paddling for days "through a land of mangroves and water, where, with the exception of two tiny muddy islets in the forest, there was no solid ground." At last "real earth" was reached, and the foothills of the northern Andes were seen beyond La Brea, the latter in the heart of the forest. "We were at the village of Guanoco, the shipping point of the pitch lake. A few steps beyond the last hut and one was in the primeval forest — so limited is man's influence in this region of rapidly growing plants." With this point as a base, several weeks were spent in exploring the neighboring forests, rich in tropical life and in new experiences for our travellers. This part of the book consists of three chapters, the first, entitled 'The Land of a Single Tree' (the mangrove); the second, 'The Lake of Pitch'; the third, 'A Woman's Experiences in Venezuela', written by Mrs. Beebe. The other two, as is a large part of the book, are written jointly by both authors.

Part II relates to British Guiana, and occupies about three fourths of the volume. The first chapter is devoted to Georgetown, the next two to a steamer and launch trip to Hoorie Creek, and thence a few miles by cart to "a gold mine in the wilderness." Then follows an account of a canoe

¹ Our Search for a | Wilderness | An Account of two ornithological Expeditions | to Venezuela and to British Guiana. | By | Mary Blair Beebe | and | C. William Beebe | Curator of Ornithology in the New York Zoölogical Park; | [etc. = 4 lines of titles] Illustrated with Photographs from Life | taken by the Authors | [colophon] | New York | Henry Holt and Company | 1910 — 8vo, pp. xix + 408, frontispiece and 160 half-tone text illustrations, many of them full-page. Published April, 1910.

trip with Indians through the "coastal wilderness," via little-known rivers and creeks. Two chapters are given to jungle life on Aremu River, the locality of the gold mine already mentioned. A concluding chapter is devoted to the coast savannas, under the title, 'The Life of the Abary Savannas.' Supplemental matter in appendices is a classified list of the birds observed, the 161 species being numbered and referred to in the text only by their vernacular names with a reference by numbers to the list, in lieu of burdening the text with the frequent repetition of technical names. There is also a list of native Guianan names of birds, and a list of the moths and some other insects collected in Guiana, "as far as they had been determined" when the book was sent to press. The principal ornithological results of the trip to Venezuela have been set forth in two special papers entitled respectively, 'A Contribution to the Ecology of the Adult Hoatzin,' and 'An Ornithological Reconnaissance of Northeastern Venezuela,' published late in December, 1909.¹

Mr. Beebe was accompanied on his Guiana trip by Mr. Lee S. Crandall of the New York Zoölogical Park, by whose aid nearly three hundred living birds were brought back to the Park, representing fifty-one species, besides many small mammals and reptiles, mostly new to the collection.

Mr. and Mrs. Beebe are both, temperamentally and otherwise, well fitted for exploration in tropical forests and jungles; that they are enthusiasts in this line of field work, and well-equipped for making good use of their opportunities, is evidenced not only by their 'Our Search for a Wilderness,' but by their earlier 'Two Bird Lovers in Mexico,' with which doubtless many readers of 'The Auk' are already familiar. But the later work far excels the former one in interest, as regards both the scenes visited and the information conveyed. The tale is simply and enthusiastically, and hence fascinatingly, related, and contains much that is wholly new or reported from a new view point. Their keen interest and admiration seem to have been almost equally awakened by all forms of invertebrate as well as vertebrate life, and by plant life as well, and they appear to have been constantly impressed by the abundant examples of "protective form or coloration" met with at every turn. The profusion of excellent illustrations add greatly to the value and interest of this exceedingly attractive book.—J. A. A.

Festa's 'In Darien and in Ecuador.'²—Dr. Enrico Festa left Italy early in 1895 on a natural history expedition to Ecuador, but owing to a revolution then in progress in that country was obliged to wait for some months for the return of more favorable conditions, in the meantime spending several months in exploration in Darien. He thus arrived at Guaya-

¹ See *antea*, pp. 227, 228.

² Dr. E. Festa | Nel Darien | e nell' Ecuador | Diario di viaggio | di un naturalista | 1909 | Unione | Tip.-Editrice | Torinese | Corso Raffaello, 28 | Torino — Svo, pp. xvi + 397, with 2 maps and about 75 half-tone plates. Lire 10.